

TOWN OF ARLINGTON



Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation

PARK COMMISSIONERS
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair
Shirley Canniff
Donald Vitters
Jim Robillard
Elena Bartholomew, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission
Minutes
Tuesday, April 14, 2015
Arlington Senior Center
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM for its meeting in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

Members in attendance included: Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, Jim Robillard and Associate Members Elena Bartholomew and Peter Hedlund. Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly was also present.

Members from the public: Laura Fuller, Wendy Johnecheck, Christian Klein, Elaine Backman, Roly Chaput and Brian Malo.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from March 24, 2015 were approved as amended on a motion by Mr. Vitters, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Open Forum – Public Comments

There were no comments.

Bishop Elementary School Garden

Ms. Fuller and Ms. Johnecheck reviewed the revised plans with the Commission. The Commission discussed the changes including whether or not to provide a gate. Ms. Fuller stated the initial plan is to have a large trellis and have an open concept. Ms. Fuller reviewed the plans for the ADA compliance.

Ms. Canniff shared her concern over the potential portable classroom placement and the impact on the garden location. Ms. Fuller did not think it would be a concern based on the current proposed location. Ms. Fuller stated the plan was to start work on the garden the weekend of May 2nd.

Ms. Mayer reminded the group that a letter, from the school department regarding the maintenance responsibilities of the grass inside of the fenced garden area, was needed. Ms. Fuller stated that the school principal would be sending that letter to Mr. Connelly.

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Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the pilot project for one year contingent on the maintenance letter from the principal stating that the custodians would mow and maintain inside the fenced area. The motion was seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Robins Farm Dog Discussion

Mr. Klein and Ms. Backman reviewed the original plan then the revised plan for ADA compliance prepared by Leonard Design with estimates of the work provided by Heimlich. The Commission reviewed the estimated budgets for both plans. Ms. Canniff asked if the group thought about just placing the dog statue adjacent to an existing accessible path. The FORFP stated they did discuss that option and that their own group was divided on the issue.

Ms. Backman stated that the FORFP was looking for guidance from the Commission as to what was completely necessary in the revised plan. Several suggestions were made for areas in the plan that could be cut or modified to contain costs.

Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to review the IHCD report to see if the current path to the lookout oval is considered compliant.

The Commission discussed accessibility and what the definition of accessibility should be.

Ms. Backman suggested that a joint meeting to walk the site between the FORFP and the Commission would be helpful.

The Commission agreed and asked Mr. Connelly to work with the Commissioners and the FORFP to find a mutually acceptable date and time.

Babe Ruth Modified Request for Batting Tunnel Specifications

Mr. Malo reviewed the revised request and asked for the poles of the batting tunnel to be allowed to be galvanized finish and not black powder coated. Mr. Malo explained that his organization received a great deal for the cost of a galvanized pole model.

The Commission discussed the request. Mr. Vitters asked that the Town be notified before placement.

Mr. Vitters motion to revise the conditions of approval and remove the condition of black powder coated posts. The motion was seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 3-1-1 with Ms. Mayer voting in the negative and Mr. Robillard abstaining.

Ed Burns Loitering Policy Review

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Mr. Connelly reviewed the changes to the rink loitering policy with the Commission. The Commission discussed the proposed changes. Ms. Bartholomew commented that the second violation should result in the loss of an ice sheet for the organization and not a full week of ice time. Mr. Connelly and the Commission agreed that was not the intent. The Commission modified the language. Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the loitering policy as amended, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Open Space Plan Review

The Commission reviewed and discussed the Open Space and Recreation Plan. Mr. Vitters commented on the extensiveness of the report. Mr. Vitters motioned for the Commission to support the Open Space and Recreation Plan as presented, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Trash and Recycling Plan

Ms. Mayer and Mr. Connelly reviewed the plan from Ms. Charlotte Milan, the Town Recycling Coordinator, for placement of barrels and recycling containers in the town's public open spaces. Ms. Mayer asked the Commission to supply feedback on trash and recycling receptacle placement throughout the spring and summer season, so that the program can evolve.

Special Requests

Friends of Robbins Farm 2015 Seasonal Event Requests – Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the 2015 event requests from the FORFP with the necessary conditions, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

AHS Cross Country Team 5K — Ms. Rothenberg motioned to approve the 2015 event with the necessary conditions, seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

Arlington Community Ed Res Beach 5K — Ms. Canniff motioned to approve the 2015 event with the necessary condition that the event times be preposted, seconded by Mr. Robillard and approved 5-0.

Ms. Mayer asked that off leash hours be added to the field and park scheduling grid.

Bark for Life – Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the 2015 event at the Reservoir with the necessary conditions, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

Commission Topic Leader Discussion

Arlington Park Alliance – Ms. Rothenberg reviewed the meeting of earlier in the evening and updated the Commission regarding the date of September 19th for the 2015 event.

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Capital Projects Update

Spy Pond Tennis Courts – Mr. Connelly reviewed the initial construction meeting and stated that the project should begin the week of May 4th. Ms. Rothenberg asked if accessing the site had been worked out with the Boys and Girls Club pick-up and drop-off times. Mr. Connelly stated that he is communicating with the Boys and Girls Club and will work with them as best he can to coordinate site access. Ms. Mayer discussed the need to insure that placement of trash receptacles for renovations consider easiest pick-up locations to assist DPW efforts.

Poets Corner – Mr. Vitters stated that he was looking at the current plot plan of the site and adjacent property ownerships to have an understanding of a potential site master plan.

Other

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 pm

Respectfully Submitted:
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

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